

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 15, 16, 18-24, and 26-28 are currently pending in this application. Claim 25 has been canceled. Claims 15 and 16 have been amended and new claims 27 and 28 have been added. Support for this Amendment can be found, for example, in claim 10 as originally filed and on page 81, line 15, through page 83, line 7, of the Specification as filed. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 15-16 and 18-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,715,686 to *Iwashita* in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,023,977 to *Mercurio*, as evidenced by *Mark* (Encyclopedia of Polymer Science and Engineering). Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection. Neither *Iwashita* nor *Mercurio*, either alone, in combination, or in combination with *Mark*, teach each and every element of Applicants' claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

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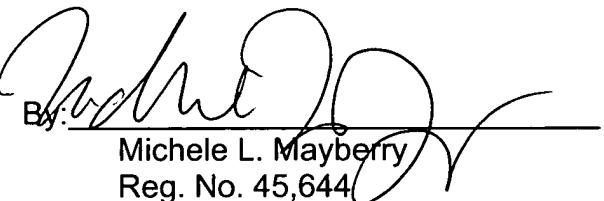
III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Amendment and Reply, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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